

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00163 021203 Z

44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 /036 W

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 244

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 0163

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OTRA, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI PARTICIPATION IN CISM BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

REF: STATE 56743

1. I INFORMED REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS MARCH 31 OF CANCELLATION OF CISM BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP. THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE IN SEEKING CLEARANCE
FROM DEFENSE MINISTER, HE HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION.
TEAM WAS THEREFORE PREPARING TO ATTEND REGARDLESS OF WHAT U. S.
RESPONSE WAS ON TRANSPORTATION REQUEST. PRESS MARCH 30 DID, IN
FACT, ANNOUNCE DEFENSE MINISTER SHEHAB' S APPROVAL FOR IRAQI
PARTICIPATION AND GIVE NAMES OF PLAYERS SELECTED.

2. I MENTIONED CISM SPORTS FESTIVAL IN BEIRUT AND POSSIBILITY THAT
U. S. BASKETBALL TEAM MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR TRIP TO IRAQ IF
DESIRED. THEY SAID IRAQ WAS GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN BEIRUT GAMES.
THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY IN NO POSITION TO EVEN SPECULATE ABOUT WHETHER
IRAQ WOULD RECEIVE U. S. ARMED FORCES TEAM. IDEA HAS,
HOWEVER, BEEN PLANTED.

3. COMMENT: AS SUSPECTED, REQUEST FOR U. S. MILITARY TRANSPORT
WAS APPARENTLY LOW LEVEL IDEA WHICH WAS VETOED BY HIGHER
AUTHORITY FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS. MY GUESS IS THAT SAME
FATE AWAITS SUGGESTION THAT U. S. ARMED FORCES TEAM VISIT IRAQ.
LOWRIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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